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## SEES PERIL TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE WEST INDIES

LONDON, February 23.—Developments unfavorable to the good relations of Germany and the United States are thought by some to be threatened by the scheme before the Danish parliament affecting the harbor of St. Thomas in the West Indies. "Potentia," an organization devoted to world peace, after a prolonged session in London presided over by Sir Edward Durnand, brother of Sir Mortimer Durnand, has just sent the following signed communication to the British foreign office:

"Potentia desires to draw public attention to the appearance on the western horizon of a cloud no bigger than a man's hand, which may well be freighted with tempest. If the Danish press may be relied on the islands of St. Thomas, San Juan and St. Croix, lying in the center of the West Indian group, are likely to become the center of a disturbance. These islands belong to Denmark. St. Thomas possesses one of the finest harbors in the West Indies, while the deep water channel passing it offers a safe and direct course from Europe to the head of the Panama canal. It is an ideal position for a naval base or port of call.

Gives Power to Syndicate of Five.

"The Danish minister of finance has introduced in parliament a bill to place the harbor in the hands of a private syndicate of five men. The bill has already been read and debated and is now in the committee stage. It enables the syndicate to take over and improve the harbor without incurring any apparent obligations toward the state and seemingly with full power to sublease or sell the unlimited rights acquired. The ostensible object of the bill is to effect an expansion of the trade of Denmark, developing its colonies and its sea-borne commerce until Denmark takes its place as a sea power.

"The proposal has fired the imagination of the Danes, whose patriotism responded to the appeal enthusiastically. The syndicate consists of H. N. Anderson, C. M. T. Cold, Hoiger Petersen, Admiral Le Richelieu of Siam fame, and R. R. Gluckstadt, director of Landsmanbanken—all Danes. The terms of this momentous concession seem to show that the Danish government practically surrenders all state

rights over the harbor of St. Thomas and of San Juan also for ninety-nine years for the trifling consideration of thirty-three per cent. of the harbor dues collected for ten years only as soon as the law repealing the present enactment concerning customs dues or duties shall have been passed. The harbor is to be at least of sufficient depth and width to admit ships of 15,000 tons displacement. Observe that this stipulation empowers or suggests a far larger capacity.

Has Sole Right to Use Harbor.

"The syndicate has the right to build dams or construct breakwaters and to hold all the area so inclosed, apparently without restrictions as to its rights to levy harbor dues and wharfage charges, with all the other rights it desires in the interest of trade and shipping. The syndicate possesses the sole right to use the harbor and may construct basins and permanent docks. It enjoys a monopoly over electric lighting and power supply and has the sole right to install a working system of wireless telegraphy. The government binds itself to grant no other concession conflicting or competing with this. The syndicate proposes to spend 20,000,000 kroner (\$5,000,000), which it hopes to raise in Denmark or elsewhere.

"No sincere friend of the Danes can desire to see such a bill carried through. To America the matter would be of instant moment in regard to its naval armaments, for America could not afford to blink at the construction of a fine naval base within easy striking distance of the head of the Panama canal and its eastern seaboard that might pass out of the possession of the private syndicate to the powerful hands of a rival or could be held in time of war by a minor neutral state.

"To England the possibilities of the situation are disquieting, for England could not favor a change of tenure in these islands unless possibly they pass under American authority as the nation most vitally interested. France, Germany and Russia are confronted with like disadvantages in the matter. Our aim is to draw public attention to a grave menace that might conceivably affect the peace of the world."

## Morning Cable Report

(Continued from Page One.)

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Chief Justice White and Justices Lamar and Hughes dissented from the decision given yesterday by the United States Supreme Court to the effect that patentees have a right to control retailers' contracts, and it is now stated that there will be a rehearing of the case with a full bench.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 12.—A jury in the superior court yesterday found John S. Rogers guilty of murder in the first degree. He was accused of the murder of Benjamin Goodman.

MEXICO CITY, March 12.—A popular demonstration was made here yesterday of loyalty to the Madero government.

LOS ANGELES, March 12.—Miss Viola Carver, a young Pasadena girl, shot and killed J. Edward Edge, a musician and real estate dealer of this city. Disappointed love was the cause of the shooting.

PEKING, March 12.—This city is in a condition of armed peace. Decapitation of rebels against the authorities are taking place daily, and there are occasional shootings.

A few hours before the inauguration of President Yuan Shih Kai yesterday some of the old troops tore Republican flags from a lot of buildings and began rioting.

HONGKONG, March 12.—Serious fighting is reported in Canton. A hundred were killed and 250 wounded, according to the last estimates.

The manchou forces have refused to disarm and are entrenched in the admiralty quarters. They have captured two river forts, and are prepared to resist attack.

NANKING, March 12.—Tang Shao Yi was yesterday elected premier. President Yuan Shih Kai yesterday expressed himself as confident that order would soon be restored throughout the republic.

### Gives Germany an Opportunity.

From a well informed source the correspondent of The Chicago Daily News learns that those who are opposed to the bill in Denmark assert that the whole scheme is the result of German interposition in Danish politics.

"Quite probably," said the correspondent's informant. "Germany would not risk trouble with America by getting possession of a deepened, widened and fully developed harbor in ordinary times, but if ever it should be embarrassed in the Pacific or elsewhere then would arise that opportunity for German action which is regarded as inimical to peace. And, of course, the harbor would offer a dangerous temptation not only to Germany, but to any other powerful rival that might wish to try conclusions with America on the question of the Monroe doctrine."

RICH BY HARRIMAN'S COAT.

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 17.—Judge E. B. Thomas, a wealthy citizen of Atlanta, who says that he largely attributes the increase in his fortune to the financial acumen imparted to him by wearing an overcoat which belonged to the late E. H. Harriman, filed suit today for \$50,000 damages against E. M. Willingham and S. M. Ransom, charging that they defrauded him out of \$4,000 and then tried to have him ad-

judged a lunatic. Judge Thomas alleges that the trial for lunacy though he was declared sane, injured his business and destroyed the confidence his neighbors reposed in him.

Judge Thomas says the overcoat was given to him by Mr. Harriman when the latter visited Atlanta several years ago. He asserts that through the properties of this coat he tripled his fortune in a few years, and that he never went wrong in a financial deal when he wore it.

Judge Thomas says that on the day on which he alleges that Ransom and Willingham defrauded him of \$4,000 in a real estate deal he was not wearing the Harriman coat, having thoughtlessly left it at home. He is confident that if he had worn the coat he would not have lost the \$4,000 nor been tried for lunacy.

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